

Publications Committee

BULLETIN

OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

NUMBER 202

FOUR TIMES A MONTH

EXTENSION SERIES ²⁰17

OCTOBER 8, 1911

*Constitution of the Debating
and Declamation League
of Texas Schools*



PUBLISHED BY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AUSTIN, TEXAS

*Entered as second-class mail matter at the postoffice at
Austin, Texas*

PUBLICATIONS

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RECORD has been issued from two to four times a year since December, 1898, and is now in its 10th volume. Its purpose is to preserve a record of the life and progress of the University, and for that reason it is of special interest to alumni, ex-students, and friends of the University. Upon request it will be regularly mailed, free, to any citizen of Texas. Address THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RECORD, Austin, Texas.

The bulletins of the UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND OFFICIAL series, consisting of Announcements of Courses, Catalogues, Regents' Reports, and administrative matter, will be mailed free to any one upon request.

The University still has for distribution copies of the following bulletins:

GENERAL SERIES

4. *Courses of Study in Law Pursued in the University of Texas*, by J. C. Townes, 16 pp. March, 1904.
7. *The Consolidation of Rural Schools*, by Una Bedichek and G. T. Baskett, New edition, enlarged by A. C. Ellis. 85 p., illus. November, 1907. 25 cents.
11. *What Should be Done by Universities to Foster the Professional Education of Teachers?* by W. S. Sutton. 24 p. 1905. 15 cents.
16. *A Study in School Supervision*, by Carl Hartman. 180 p. 1907. 50 cents.
17. *Religious Activities at the University of Texas*. 53 p., illus. August, 1909.

HUMANISTIC SERIES

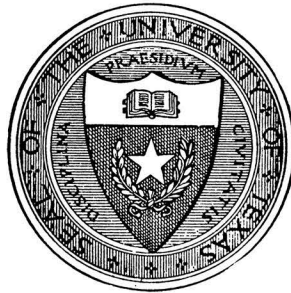
5. *The Grotesque in the Poetry of Robert Browning*, by Lily B. Campbell. 41 p. April, 1907. 25 cents.
3. *The Beginnings of Texas*, by R. C. Clark. 94 p., map. December, 1907. 75 cents.

(Continued on inside back cover)

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PREFACE.

This Bulletin contains the Constitution of THE DEBATING AND DECLAMATION LEAGUE OF TEXAS SCHOOLS, as amended at the annual meeting of the League schools, held at the University on May 6, 1911.

This League was first organized in 1910, its activities being confined to a State contest in debate among schools affiliated with the University. The first contest was held in May, 1911, among ten debating teams, one from each of the ten districts into which the State was then divided. The El Paso High School was awarded first place in this contest, and second place was won by the Honey Grove High School. Under the amended Constitution that follows, the scope of the organization has been broadened to include *all* the schools in Texas, a contest in declamation has been added, and the number of districts for holding preliminary contests has been increased from ten to sixteen.

The attention of school principals and of city and county superintendents is called to the following points:

1. The primary purpose of this League is to foster in the schools the study and practice of public speaking and debate as an aid in the preparation for citizenship. To this end, let each school organize at least one literary or debating society, and then, in coöperation with the county superintendent, let the schools perfect an organization for a county contest. Not every school may have the material for a debating team, but any school should be able to enter a speaker in the county declamation contest. In this connection, school principals may incite local interest, especially in the rural schools, by organizing a series of public entertainments. One such entertainment, for example, could be devoted to the study of some author, with recitations from his writings; another to a declamation contest; another to a debate among the pupils, or with a neighboring school; another to a debate among the school patrons, etc., etc. Public entertainments of this character, with a program sufficiently varied and not too long, may be made interesting and profitable to both pupils and parents. The Department of Extension will be glad

to correspond with principals regarding such entertainments, and to render every aid possible.

2. Superintendents and principals may aid the cause by securing separate prizes for local, county, and district contests. Some of the counties already have organizations that offer very substantial prizes, secured by the gate receipts from the county contests. In other instances, individuals may be glad to offer prizes.

3. In the county and district contests the winning school should be determined, whenever practicable, by actual contest with the other schools that have survived the preliminaries. The practice sometimes followed of using the per cent. grades of different judges in other contests is never satisfactory, since each judge is apt to have his own standard of grading. Where three schools are closely grouped, the triangular system for try-out debates is recommended. That is, each school furnishes two teams, one team taking the affirmative, and the other team the negative side of the same question. The affirmative team debates at home, and the negative team away from home. All three debates are held the same evening. In determining which one of the three schools is the winner, each decision counts one point, and each judge's vote counts one point, making a possible eight points (assuming there are three judges) for any one school in two debates, the school securing the largest number of points being the winner. The triangular system has these advantages: (1) It develops an affirmative and a negative team at each school, (2) it gives each school at least one home debate, and (3) no school has the advantage over another in sides of the question, and frequent dissatisfaction over biased judgments will be very largely obviated.

4. Correspondence relative to the League should be addressed to Professor E. D. Shurter, Chairman of the Executive Committee. Membership fees should be sent to Professor J. A. Lomax, Treasurer.

CONSTITUTION OF THE DEBATING AND DECLAMATION LEAGUE OF TEXAS SCHOOLS.

A. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

ARTICLE I.—*Name.*

This organization shall be known as “The Debating and Declamation League of Texas Schools.”

ARTICLE II.—*Object.*

The object of this League is improvement in public speaking and debate among the students in the schools of Texas.

ARTICLE III.—*Membership.*

SECTION 1. Any public or private school in Texas that is below collegiate rank, or that does not confer a degree or call itself a college (preparatory departments in colleges and schools of oratory being excluded), may become a member of this League upon due application to the Executive Committee and the payment of an annual membership fee of one dollar to J. A. Lomax, Treasurer, Department of Extension of the University, Austin, Texas.

SECTION 2. The application for membership should be in substantially the following form:

The.....School hereby makes application for membership in The Debating and Declamation League of Texas Schools. Enclosed find one dollar as membership fee for the current year. This school is situated in....., County, and in the.....District. [Name the central city of your district—see Article VI. Make checks and money orders payable to J. A. Lomax, Treasurer.]

SECTION 3. No school shall be admitted to any of the contests of this League until its application is approved by the Executive Committee and the membership fee duly paid. The Executive

Committee shall promptly certify to each County Director the schools in each county that have qualified for membership; and likewise, upon demand, the Executive Committee shall certify to a District Director the League members in his district.

ARTICLE IV.—*Contests.*

This League shall hold annually two State contests in public speaking: a contest in debate, and a contest in declamation. Any *bona fide* undergraduate male student in any of the schools composing this League shall be eligible to compete in either or both of these contests; *provided*, that in the contest in declamation a contestant must not have passed his eighteenth birthday at the date of the final contest (the first Friday in May); and *provided* further, that a contestant must have passing grades in at least three of his studies at the time of each contest for which he enters.

ARTICLE V.—*Officers—Duties.*

SECTION 1. The officers of the League shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Executive Committee, a District Director for each district, and a County Director for each county.

The President shall be the Principal of the winning school in the debate contest of the preceding year, and the Vice President shall be the principal of the winning school in the declamation contest of the preceding year; *provided*, that in case the same school wins in both contests, the Vice President shall be the principal of the school winning second place in the final contest in debate. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be chosen at the annual meeting. The Executive Committee shall consist of the University standing committee on Forensics and Oratory. The District Director for each district shall be the principal (or other representative) of the public school highest in rank which is located in the central city of a district. The County Director for each county shall be the County Superintendent of Schools (or other representative).

SECTION 2. The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall perform the usual duties respectively pertaining to these offices.

SECTION 3. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to have general charge of the affairs of the League; to authorize all expenditures not provided for at the annual meeting; to announce the question for debate each year, not later than October 15; to coöperate with the District Directors in arranging for the preliminary debating and declamation contests in each district; to settle disputes that may arise in connection with such contests, and to make arrangements for the final contest.

SECTION 4. It shall be the duty of each District Director to have immediate charge of the preliminary debating and declamation contests in his district; to preside at any called meeting of the principals (or other representatives) of the League schools in his district; to coöperate with the County Superintendents (or other representatives) of the League schools in his district in pairing the counties for the try-out contests on the basis of convenience and least expense; and to arrange for the final debating and declamation contests in his district.

SECTION 5. It shall be the duty of each County Director to canvass his county for entries to the contests, both in debate and declamation; to have immediate charge of arranging preliminary contests in his county, with reference to convenience and least expense; to preside at any called meeting of the principals (or other representatives) of the League schools in his county; and to arrange for a final contest to choose a debating team and a declaimer to represent his county in the district contest.

ARTICLE VI.—*Districts.*

For the purpose of holding preliminary contests, the State shall be divided into the following sixteen districts, designated by the following cities as centers, each district being composed of the counties below specified:—

1. **AMARILLO.** *Counties:* Dallam, Sherman, Hansford, Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Hartley, Moore, Hutchinson, Roberts, Hemphill, Oldham, Potter, Carson, Gray, Wheeler, Deaf Smith, Randall, Armstrong, Donley, Collingsworth, Parmer, Castro, Swisher, Briscoe, Hall, Childress, Bailey, Lamb, Hale, Floyd, Motley.

2. **WICHITA FALLS.** *Counties:* Cottle, Hardeman, Wilbarger, Wichita, Clay, Montague, King, Knox, Baylor, Archer, Throckmorton, Young.

3. SHERMAN. *Counties:* Cooke, Grayson, Fannin, Lamar, Red River.

4. SWEETWATER. *Counties:* Cochran, Hockley, Lubbock, Crosby, Dickens, Yoakum, Terry, Lynn, Garza, Kent, Stonewall, Haskell, Gaines, Dawson, Borden, Scurry, Fisher, Jones, Shackelford, Stephens, Andrews, Martin, Howard, Mitchell, Nolan, Taylor, Callahan, Ector, Midland, Glasscock, Sterling, Coke.

5. FORT WORTH. *Counties:* Jack, Wise, Denton, Palo Pinto, Parker, Tarrant, Dallas, Hood, Johnson, Ellis.

6. GREENVILLE. *Counties:* Collin, Hunt, Delta, Hopkins, Franklin, Titus, Camp, Rockwall, Rains, Wood, Kaufman, Van Zandt.

7. MARSHALL. *Counties:* Bowie, Morris, Cass, Marion, Upshur, Gregg, Harrison, Rusk, Panola, Shelby, San Augustine, Sabine.

8. EL PASO. *Counties:* El Paso, Loving, Winkler, Reeves, Ward, Jeff Davis, Pecos, Presidio, Brewster, Terrell.

9. BROWNWOOD. *Counties:* Eastland, Erath, Runnels, Coleman, Brown, Comanche, Hamilton, Mills, Crane, Upton, Reagan, Irion, Tom Green, Concho, McCulloch, San Saba, Lampasas, Crockett, Schleicher, Menard, Mason, Sutton, Kimble.

10. HILLSBORO. *Counties:* Bosque, Hill, Navarro, Coryell, McLennan, Limestone, Falls.

11. PALESTINE. *Counties:* Henderson, Smith, Freestone, Anderson, Cherokee, Nacogdoches, Leon, Houston, Trinity, Angelina.

12. AUSTIN. *Counties:* Bell, Milam, Robertson, Llano, Burnet, Williamson, Lee, Burleson, Brazos, Washington, Gillespie, Blanco, Travis, Bastrop, Hays, Caldwell, Fayette, Austin, Colorado.

13. HOUSTON. *Counties:* Madison, Walker, San Jacinto, Polk, Grimes, Montgomery, Liberty, Waller, Harris, Chambers, Fort Bend, Brazoria, Galveston, Wharton, Jackson, Matagorda.

14. BEAUMONT. *Counties:* Tyler, Jasper, Newton, Hardin, Orange, Jefferson.

15. SAN ANTONIO. *Counties:* Val Verde, Edwards, Kerr, Bandera, Kendall, Comal, Guadalupe, Gonzales, Lavaca, Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, Wilson, Karnes, DeWitt, Maverick, Zavala, Frio, Atascosa, Dimmit, LaSalle.

16. CORPUS CHRISTI. *Counties:* McMullen, Live Oak, Bee, Goliad, Victoria, Refugio, Calhoun, San Patricio, Aransas, Webb, Duval, Nueces, Zapata, Starr, Hidalgo, Cameron.

ARTICLE VII.—*County and District Contests.*

In order to determine the winning school in each district, a series of try-out contests shall be held. Such contests shall begin with the county as the unit; then the winning debating team (of a *school*,—the two students constituting the debating team from a given school always stand or fall together) and the winning declaimer in each county shall engage in an intra-district contest to determine the winning debating team and the winning declaimer of each district. County contests shall be held some time between November 1 and February 1; district contests shall be held some time between February 1 and April 1, but in no case shall the final district contests, in each instance, be later than April 1. Unless otherwise arranged, the final district contests shall be held at the city in each district which is designated as the center thereof.

ARTICLE VIII.—*Final Contests.*

The final contests shall be held at the University on the first Friday and Saturday in May. On Friday the sixteen winning debating teams from the various districts shall engage in preliminary contests until two teams shall have been selected for the final contest, to be held on Saturday night in the University auditorium. The sixteen winning declaimers from the various districts shall engage in a final contest at the University auditorium on Friday night.

ARTICLE IX.—*Judges.*

At each contest there shall be three, five, or seven judges, as may be determined by those empowered to appoint, selected on the basis of capability and impartiality. In the county and district contests the judges shall be appointed by the county and district directors, respectively, subject to the approval of a majority of the school principals concerned. In the final contest at the University the judges shall be chosen by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X.—*Expenses.*

In the county and district contests, the traveling expenses of contestants and of judges shall be borne as the respective directors, together with a majority of the school principals concerned, may determine. Admission charges to local, county, and district contests may be made, when deemed advisable. At the final contests at the University the visiting contestants shall bear their own expenses; the University will be responsible for the expenses of local arrangements and of the judges.

B. THE CONTEST IN DEBATE.

ARTICLE XI—*Debates and Debaters.*

SECTION 1. The debating team representing each school shall consist of two members, both being students in the same school. The debaters shall be *bona fide* undergraduate male students of the schools which they represent, and each shall have passing grades in at least three of his studies at the time of each contest for which he enters.

SECTION 2. Unless by consent of both teams concerned, the question in all preliminary debates shall be the one assigned for the final contest; and all debaters shall be prepared to speak on either side of this question.

SECTION 3. In all contests, sides shall be determined (except when the triangular system is used) either by mutual consent or by lot.

SECTION 4. In all contests the debaters shall be separated from the audience and shall receive no coaching while the debate is in progress.

SECTION 5. It shall be considered dishonorable for one school to visit the debates of another when the two schools are likely to meet on the same question.

SECTION 6. At all contests the time and order of speeches shall be as follows:

MAIN.

Affirmative, 12 minutes.

Negative, 12 minutes.

Affirmative, 12 minutes.

Negative, 12 minutes.

REBUTTAL.

Negative, 6 minutes.

Affirmative, 6 minutes.

Negative, 6 minutes.

Affirmative, 6 minutes.

ARTICLE XII.—*Instruction to Judges.*

A copy of the following instructions shall be given to each judge: "The judges, who shall sit apart during the debate, shall judge the contest *as a debate*, voting without consultation 'Affirmative' or 'Negative' on the merits of the debate, irrespective of their individual opinions as to the merits of the question. In deciding which team has done the more effective debating, the judges shall take into consideration thought and delivery in both main and rebuttal speeches. In cases of doubt, argument shall be stressed relatively more than delivery, and rebuttal work more than the main constructive arguments. At the close of the debate each judge shall sign and seal his vote and deliver it to the presiding officer, who shall open the votes in the presence of a representative of each school and announce the decision."

ARTICLE XIII.—*Final Contest.*

SECTION 1. The winning teams in the district contests shall meet at the University on the first Friday in May, when preliminary debates shall be held during that day until two teams shall have been chosen for the final contest.

SECTION 2. The final contest shall be held at the University auditorium on the first Saturday night in May.

C. THE CONTEST IN DECLAMATION.

ARTICLE XIV.—*Eligibility.*

The State contest in Declamation shall be open to any *bona fide* undergraduate male student in any Texas school that duly qualifies for membership in this League (see Article III); *provided*, that a contestant shall not have passed his eighteenth birthday at the time of the final contest (the first Friday in May); and *provided* further, that he has passing grades in at least three of his studies at the time of each contest for which he enters.

ARTICLE XV—*Nature of Declamations.*

Each declamation shall consist of a prose selection from some standard author or well-known speaker. The subject-matter of each selection shall be prevailingly serious in tone, and delivered for the purpose of convincing or persuading the audience of certain ideas or truths; in other words, a declamation should not be chosen which is primarily adapted to the purposes of mere entertainment. Poetry (excepting such poetical quotations as may be included in prose selections), “funny” pieces, dramatic readings, and impersonations will not be allowed. Each student shall select a declamation the words of which he adopts as his own for the purpose of speaking to a present-day audience on a subject of present-day interest and importance.

In cases of doubt as to the interpretation of this rule, the Executive Committee should be consulted, and the decision of such committee shall be final.

No declamation in the final contest shall exceed five (5) minutes in length (about 600 words). [*Note:* A five-minute selection having required unity and sequence can readily be secured by judicious cutting—supplying, it may be, a connecting sentence or phrase here and there.]

ARTICLE XVI.—*Rules of Contests.*

SECTION 1. The order of speaking in the declamation contests, county, district, and final, shall be determined by lot.

SECTION 2. No speaker shall be interrupted in any manner while he is speaking, either by cheers or otherwise, and the presiding officer shall see that this rule is strictly enforced.

SECTION 3. No speaker shall be coached or prompted in any manner during the delivery of his declamation.

SECTION 4. At each contest there shall be two time-keepers, who shall notify the speaker and the presiding officer, by ringing a bell, or other signal, whenever the speaker exceeds the time-limit of five (5) minutes.

ARTICLE XVII.—*Instruction to Judges.*

The judges in the declamation contests, county, district, and final, shall receive the following instructions: "This is a contest in delivery only, the speeches not being original productions. The basis of judging each contestant shall be: general effectiveness as a speaker. In determining general effectiveness, the following matters shall be considered: interpretation, adaptation of the speaker's delivery to the particular selection, clearness in enunciation, emphasis, inflection, modulation, force, earnestness, naturalness, ease and grace of carriage, physical expression, including appropriateness and effectiveness in gesture, directness, and the general effect upon the audience. No attempt, however, shall be made to grade these elements of general effectiveness by percentages, but each judge shall rank each speaker according to the effort as a whole. At the close of the contest the judges, after conferring together, shall decide upon first and second choice.

D. MISCELLANEOUS.

ARTICLE XVIII.—*Prizes.*

SECTION 1. To each member of the two debating teams that qualify for the final contest the University offers Debating Scholarships. These scholarships entitle the holders to exemption from all matriculation fees while students at the University.

SECTION 2. To the school whose debating team wins first place in the final contest, the *Dallas News* offers \$50.00 worth of books, to be selected by the principal of the winning school, and to be placed in the school library; and to the school whose debating team wins second place in the final contest the Martin and Hoyt Company offers a set of Brewer's *The World's Best Oration*s, consisting of ten volumes and valued at \$50.00.

SECTION 3. Mr. Eugene L. Harris, of El Paso, offers a silver loving cup to the school whose debating team wins first place in the final contest. The winning school is to be custodian of the cup for a year, and in case any school wins first place in the debate contest three years in succession, this cup shall become the permanent property of such school.

SECTION 4. To the school whose representative wins first place in the declamation contest Rand, McNally & Co. offers \$50.00 worth of books, to be selected by the principal of the winning school from the Educational Catalogue of this company; and to the school whose representative wins second place in this contest the Bobbs-Merrill Company offers a set of James Whitcomb Riley's works, valued at \$15.00, and Mr. C. Q. Barton, Texas agent for the Macmillan Company, offers \$10.00 worth of this company's books.

SECTION 5. The G. A. Bahn Optical and Diamond Company, of Austin, offers a silver loving cup to the school whose representative wins first place in the declamation contest, the cup to be held by the winning school for one year, and in case any school wins the declamation contest three years in succession, this cup shall become the permanent property of such school.

ARTICLE XIX.—*Reports and Press Notices.*

County and District Directors shall promptly report to the

Executive Committee, at Austin, the winning debaters and declaimers in the county and district contests, and shall also furnish reports of these contests to the local press; and the principals of the winning schools in the district contests shall promptly send to the Executive Committee photographs and brief sketches of the winning debaters and declaimers, for use in the local and State press.

ARTICLE XX.—*Disputes.*

All disputes among members of the League, except in regard to the selection of Judges, shall be settled by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XXI.—*Annual Meeting.*

The annual meeting of the League shall be held at the University on the morning of the first Saturday of May, at nine o'clock a. m.

ARTICLE XXII.—*Waiver.*

The rules herein, as affecting a particular school, county, or district, may be varied or waived only by unanimous consent of the schools concerned and the approval of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XXIII.—*Amendments.*

This constitution may be amended at any annual meeting by a majority of the League schools present and voting, each school being entitled to one vote.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS BULLETIN.

(Continued from inside front cover)

7. *Railroad Transportation in Texas*, by C. S. Potts. 214 p., 6 maps, charts. March, 1909. \$1.50.
8. *Crime and the Treatment of the Criminal*, by C. S. Potts. 86 p. May 1, 1910. 25 cents.
10. *Problems of Prison Reform*, by C. S. Potts. 40 p. December 8, 1910. 20 cents.
11. *Recognition of the Republic of Texas by the United States*, by Ethel Zivley Rather. 101 p. January 1, 1911. 75 cents.
12. *English Elements in Jonson's Early Comedy*, by Charles Read Baskervill, 328 p. April 8, 1911. \$2.50.

MEDICAL SERIES

1. *Yellow Fever: a Popular Lecture*, by James Carroll. 32 p. June, 1905. 15 cents.
2. *The Care of the Insane*, by Dr. M. L. Graves. 16 p. 1905. 15 cents.
3. *The 1903 Epidemic of Yellow Fever in Texas and the Lessons to Be Learned from It*, by Dr. G. R. Tabor. 22 p. June, 1905. 15 cents.
4. *Further Experiments in the Use of Drugs as Stimulants in Accidents Occurring During Anaesthesia*, by O. H. Plant, 31 p. February 8, 1911. 25 cents.

SCIENTIFIC SERIES

6. *Vegetation of the Sotol Country in Texas*, by W. L. Bray. 24 p., pl. June, 1905. 25 cents.
7. *Observations on the Habits of Some Solitary Wasps of Texas*, by Carl Hartman. 72 p., pl. July, 1905. 25 cents.
10. *Distribution and Adaptation of the Vegetation of Texas*, by W. L. Bray, 108 p., pl. map. November, 1906. 35 cents.
11. *A Sketch of the Geology of the Chisos Country*, by J. A. Udden. 101 p. April, 1907. 50 cents.
12. *The Clays of Texas*, by Heinrich Ries, 316 p., illus. pl. 1908. \$2.00.
13. *The American Mistletoe*, by H. H. York. 31 p., pl. 1909. 50 cents.
14. *Symptoms of Disease in Plants*, by F. D. Heald. Illus. November, 1909. \$1.00.
15. *Field Studies of the Behavior of the Lizard *Sceloporus Floridanus**, by H. H. Newman and J. Thomas Patterson. 23 p., illus. December, 1909. 25 cents.
16. *The Austin Dam*, by T. U. Taylor, 85 p., illus. December 22, 1911. 75 cents.
17. *On the Electrostatic Effect of a Changing Magnetic Field*, by J. M. Kuehne. 15 p. January 15, 1911. 25 cents.
18. *Fauna of the Buda Limestone*, by Francis Luther Whitney. 54 p., illus. May 22, 1911. \$1.00.

To those who desire it a complete list of the publications of the University of Texas will be furnished. Requests for this or for Bulletins should be addressed to the University of Texas Bulletin, Austin, Texas. Exchanges should be addressed to the University of Texas Library.

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Session of 1911 begins June 18.

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